

and Technical Cooperation. A copy of the Press Statement issued on the conclusion of the discussions is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6190/1974*].

Promotion of a better balance in Trade between India and Sri Lanka

454. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR :

SHRI P. GANGADFB

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Delhi and Colombo have identified three Industrial projects to promote a better balance in trade; and

(b) if so, whether each project is intended to meet their needs for products now imported from a third country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Feasibility studies have been conducted for the establishment, in Sri Lanka, of industries based on granite, glass and rubber. These are under consideration of the two governments. With its proximity to India, Sri Lanka will enjoy a competitive advantage over other sources of supply for products which India would need to import from abroad. It is in the spirit of economic cooperation between the two countries that they develop and diversify their mutual trade

Cultivation and Export of Opium

455 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is in danger of losing its monopoly in cultivation and export of opium in the world market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the drawbacks and maintain the monopoly in the opium trade and cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India's policy regarding production and export of opium, is based on her international obligations to restrict it to world's medical and scientific requirements of opium. Such requirements of opium are determined by the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations.

India is the principal opium producing country in the world and Indian opium accounts for more than 75% of the world's total production. The other major opium producing countries at present are USSR and Iran, but they do not export opium. Turkey, which was the other principal exporting country has suspended opium production from 1973

Steps to Check Smuggling on Indo-Pak Border

456 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of smuggling on large scale on the Haryana and Punjab borders with Pakistan, and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check the same and the value of goods recovered by Government from the smugglers during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) Intelligence reports received by the